

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 1996

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, after reflecting on the President's State of the Union Address Tuesday evening, I am deeply disturbed over the many contradictions in his speech. In one breath the President declared: "The era of big Government is over." And in the next he states: "But we cannot go back to the time when our citizens were left to fend for themselves."

The President is again trying to be all things to all people. But, he is being dishonest with the American people. The President knows the magnitude of our Government's financial crisis.

Mr. Speaker, he knows our Nation is nearly \$5 trillion in debt. He knows that Government subsidized programs and entitlements are draining our Nation's Treasury. And, he knows that to continue down this road leads us to moral and financial bankruptcy.

Yet, the President continues to try and please everyone. He continues to pander to every person and every group that has come to depend on a Government subsidy paid for by the American taxpayer. He continues to pander to his voting base for the 1996 Presidential campaign.

The elections of 1992 and 1994 were about change. The people of this Nation said "enough is enough." The people told Washington they were tired of big government. They told Washington they were tired of the Democrat's tax and spend policies.

Mr. Speaker, 1996 is another election year. And the President can read the polls. His State of the Union Address played to the people's desires and emotions. The President challenged Republicans in Congress to give him a balanced Federal budget, tax cuts for working Americans, welfare reform, educational scholarships, crime prevention programs. And the list goes on and on.

Well Republicans have already met the President's challenge. But he failed to tell the American people that in his State of the Union Address.

The President failed to tell the American people we gave him a balanced Federal budget—and he vetoed it.

The President failed to tell the American people we gave him a bill that cut taxes for all working Americans—and he vetoed it.

The President failed to tell the American people we gave him a bill to reform welfare as we know it—and he vetoed it.

The President failed to tell the American people we gave him a bill providing \$2 billion in new crime prevention programs—and he vetoed it.

And, the President failed to tell the American people we gave him a bill that increases Federal funding for education, Medicare, Medicaid, veterans and all the Federal programs that help people help themselves. The President failed to tell the American people he vetoed it.

Mr. Speaker, we did all of this and cut wasteful Federal spending and the Washington bureaucracy. We also did all this and returned the power and decisionmaking to individuals, families, and States.

The President failed to tell this to the American people in his address. Why? Because Bill Clinton believes in big government. Bill Clinton believes in Washington bureaucrats making decisions instead of the people.

The President was right when he said the era of big government is over. But the rest of his address was a last gasp for tax and spend big government. The American people rejected that philosophy in 1994 and we in Congress reject it now. We will not continue to pass on more and more financial obligations to our children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Clinton needs to be more honest with the American people. He needs to have a change of heart or we need to change President.

FAREWELL TO INDIA'S ENVOY TO WASHINGTON

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 1996

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of the very finest diplomats it has been my pleasure to work with during my tenure on the House International Relations Committee, India's Ambassador to the United States, Siddhartha Ray.

I worked closely with Siddhartha during my service as chairman of the House International Relations Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, and we have enjoyed a close friendship for the last 4 years.

During his years in Washington, Siddhartha worked tirelessly to improve Indo-United States relations, and to promote policies designed to reduce tensions between India and Pakistan. In both of these areas, he was enormously successful.

Ambassador Ray and his embassy effectively publicized the importance of the Indian market to American business. It was during Ambassador Ray's tenure that the United States Secretary of Commerce led a high level business delegation to India.

Ambassador Ray was equally effective in helping to curtail the South Asian arms race by effectively arguing against the administration's plan to transfer advanced fighter aircraft to Pakistan.

Siddhartha and his delightful wife Maya were an extraordinary team in Washington. They came to this post after distinguished careers in law and government. Siddhartha came to understand the workings of the U.S. Congress as only a former Member of Parliament could.

I join my colleagues in wishing Siddhartha and Maya Ray the very best of luck in their future endeavors, and we hope to see them back in Washington often.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH REILLY

HON. JACK REED

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 1996

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to pay tribute to the young woman who is nearing the end of her tenure

as Miss Rhode Island. Elizabeth Reilly not only displays the poise, grace, and character that are often associated with participants in the Miss America contest, she has also made a significant contribution to the welfare of Rhode Island's children.

Elizabeth is a second grade teacher at West Broadway School in Providence. Her father is a teacher, and Elizabeth has long known that she, too, wanted to enter this critical field, in which she could work to help our youngest citizens.

Three years ago, while teaching at Sackett Street School in Providence, Elizabeth saw that many of her students did not have adequate clothing. This serious problem distracted the children and prevented them from focusing their energy on learning.

To address this troubling situation, Elizabeth established a clothing bank that collected donations of clothing and distributed them to children in need. Elizabeth's selection as Miss Rhode Island attracted additional attention and donations for the clothing bank, helping her to expand this vital service. Although Elizabeth's tenure as Miss Rhode Island is nearing its end, the clothing bank that she has created will continue to benefit Rhode Island children for many years to come.

On this floor, we often state that our Nation's citizens must reach out to each other in order to address the problems confronting our communities. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Elizabeth Reilly, whose work exemplifies the true spirit of community. I know the future holds a great deal more for Elizabeth Reilly, and I wish her all the best.

IN MEMORY OF LILLIAN VEGA

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 1996

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of Lillian Vega, a remarkable woman whose lifelong commitment to her family, friends, and the Bronx contributed to the nourishment and strengthening of our community.

Today her memory will be honored by her family and friends at a meeting of Community Planning Board #9, in the Bronx.

Ms. Vega was born in Ponce, PR. When she was 15 years old, Ms. Vega and her family moved to New York. After completing high school, she married Cesar Rivera and had five children.

Ms. Vega started working as a secretary at the Hunts Point Community Corporation. Fifteen years of experience, dedication, and hard work led to her promotion to deputy director of the agency.

Ms. Vega's political career began at the Hubert H. Humphrey Democratic Club in the 1970's. She was the first Puerto Rican woman to become district leader and held this office for almost 20 years. Her co leaders included Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer, State Senator Efrain Gonzalez, and Councilman Rafael Castaneira Colon.

Ms. Vega also worked as a community liaison for Assemblyman Hector Diaz and, most recently, as Community Associate at Community Planning board #6.

Her active work in the community and her accomplishments led to numerous awards.